



Luella R. Burke, President

Gloria Hultz, Executive Treasurer  
New York

**August 14, 2006**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FID# 14-1636022

## **NAAWS Presents Prestigious Medal of Valor to Louisiana DPS&C**

(Charlotte, NC) The National Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS) will present the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Corrections Services with the group's prestigious Medal of Valor award during a ceremony on Monday, August 14, 2006 at the Hilton Center City in Charlotte, North Carolina. The NAAWS ceremony is held in conjunction with the American Correctional Association's Summer Conference.

NAAWS has presented the Medal of Valor to twenty-four (24) men and women from the United States and Canada since the award's inception in 1997, but this is the first time the award will be given to a **group** of employees. DPS&C Secretary Richard L. Stalder will accept on behalf of department employees. The Medal of Valor is given in honor of heroic actions performed by correctional officers in the line of duty.

NAAWS Executive Director Art Leonardo says that the performance of Louisiana Department of Corrections employees during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita rivals any emergency response in the history of corrections.

"This year we recognize the men and women of the Louisiana Department of Corrections who stayed on the job during the entire Katrina tragedy, followed closely by Hurricane Rita. They kept custody of their charges, assisted parish jurisdictions and heroically carried out their ultimate mission of public safety," explained Leonardo. "Secretary Richard Stalder, wardens and the entire corrections team provided leadership and results during one of this country's most trying times."

Among Louisiana's accomplishments during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita:

- Evacuated and coordinated the transportation and housing of 7,700 inmates from the Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish jail in the aftermath of Katrina. The task in Orleans was particularly difficult considering that the prison complex was surrounded by floodwaters.

**Executive Director**  
**Art Leonardo, CCE**

---

--MORE--

**Return Address:**  
P.O. Box 11037  
Albany, New York 12211-0037  
518-786-6801 518-429-1923 (cell)  
[elart26@aol.com](mailto:elart26@aol.com)  
[www.corrections.com/NAAWS/](http://www.corrections.com/NAAWS/)

- Provided security to the New Orleans Fire Department as crews responded to emergency situations throughout the city.
- Helped evacuated “walking wounded” civilians from New Orleans to Baton Rouge.
- Coordinated housing for an additional 3,000 evacuated inmates in anticipation of Hurricane Rita.
- Provided manpower to overwhelmed police departments to help curb looting in rural parishes affected by Rita.
- Addressed physical and mental health needs of evacuated inmates in state institutions and reconnected them with family members who were also displaced.
- Constructed and staffed a temporary booking and detention facility in New Orleans due to the flooding of Orleans Parish Prison.

“Corrections professionals all over the country took pride in the news accounts of the Louisiana Department of Corrections carrying out its job with courage and skill. The collective effort is much deserving of this recognition,” concluded Leonardo.

###